



# DOA Local Government Report

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## 2013 Legislative Session - A Citizen's Guide

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2013 Legislative Session – A  
Citizen's Guide

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The 2013-2014 legislative sessions began when the new legislature was sworn in on January 7, 2013. The schedule of floor periods for the new session was established by Senate Joint Resolution 1.

**Notification service.** The legislature's Wisconsin Legislative Notification Service makes following the legislative process easier for interested citizens. Registered users can receive daily or weekly emails when specified legislative activity occurs. For example, users may choose to be notified about every action affecting a specific proposal, bills introduced by a particular legislator, activities of a specific committee, or introductions relating to a particular topic. Go to: <http://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov/>.

**Internet Broadcast of Floor Debate.** Citizens can listen to live floor debate in both houses using the Legislature's InSession service: Senate audio and Assembly audio. Broadcasts are live only. If one house or the other is not in session, there is no audio available. The Assembly offers live video as well, with links from the InSession page. The InSession pages also provide the day's calendar with links from the calendar to bills before the house and to roll call votes as they occur. Go to: <http://InSession/Assembly> or <http://InSession/Senate>.

**Legislative Documents.** Search legislative documents from the current and past sessions, including introduced proposals, statutes, administrative code, clearinghouse rules, committee hearing records and more. For help navigating the site, go to the Legislative Reference Bureau's Research Services page. Go to: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/Research/index.htm>.

**LRB Publications and Newsfeeds.** Throughout the session, the LRB issues publications related to current proposals and other recent issues of interest. Go to: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/index.htm>.

**LRB on Twitter.** Updates include information on new LRB publications, new acquisitions by the LRB Library, and general information about the legislature and the legislative session. Go to: <http://twitter.com/WILRB>.

**LRB Podcasts.** Listen to or download free audio files on the LRB Podcasts Web page, which contains policy information from experts in the field. Go to: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/podcasts/index.htm>.

**Legislative Council Publications Center.** The Legislative Council's Publications Center provides overviews of topics of interest to the legislature as well as links to Council publications related to the topic. Go to: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/publications/bydate.asp>.

**Audit Bureau Reports.** The Legislative Audit Bureau conducts financial and program evaluation audits of state agencies. Recent audit reports are accessible online. Go to: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/CurrentReportsByDate.htm>.

**WisconsinEYE.** WisconsinEYE, a private, not-for-profit statewide public affairs network provides video coverage of Assembly and Senate floor sessions as well as select committee hearings. Go to: <http://www.wiseye.org/Home.aspx>.

## Apply to Serve in State Government

There are currently a substantial number of positions available on various boards and commissions. The Governor needs help filling these positions. Please consider applying for a gubernatorial appointment. If you know of a family member, friend or fellow Wisconsin citizen who is enthusiastic about civic duty, please encourage him or her to apply.

To learn about available positions and to apply, go to [www.walker.wi.gov](http://www.walker.wi.gov) and click on the blue button at the top of the page that reads "Apply to Serve."

Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis for the following boards and commissions:

- Access to Justice Commission
- Accounting Examining Board
- Arts Board
- Athletic Trainers Affiliated Credentialing Board
- Auctioneer Board
- Banking Review Board
- Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission
- Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
- Board of Governors of the Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund
- Board of Nursing
- Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System
- Board of Veterans Affairs
- Board on Aging and Long Term Care
- Bradley Center Sports and Entertainment Corporation
- Building Inspector Review Board
- Burial Sites Preservation Board
- Cemetery Board
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
- Chiropractic Examining Board
- Circus World Museum Foundation
- College and Workforce Readiness Council
- Commission on Uniform State Laws
- Commissioner of Railroads
- Compact Administrator of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles
- Controlled Substances Board
- Conveyance Safety Code Council
- Cosmetology Examining Board
- Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Council on Affirmative Action
- Council on Autism
- Council on Domestic Abuse
- Council on Forestry
- Council on Highway Safety
- Council on Library and Network Development
- Council on Main Street Programs
- Council on Mental Health
- Council on Migrant Labor
- Council on Military and State Relations
- Council on Offender Reentry
- Council on Physical Disabilities
- Council on Physician Assistants
- Council on Real Estate Curriculum and Examinations
- Council on Recycling
- Council on Tourism
- Credit Union Review Board
- Crime Victims Rights Board
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Deferred Compensation Board
- Dentistry Examining Board
- Dietitians Affiliated Credentialing Board
- Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Council
- Dwelling Code Council
- Early Childhood Advisory Council
- East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Education Commission of the States
- Educational Approval Board
- Educational Communications Board
- Electronic Recording Council
- Emergency Medical Services Board
- Employee Trust Funds Board
- Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors
- Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists and Soil Scientists
- Fox River Navigational System Authority
- Funeral Directors Examining Board
- Government Accountability Board
- Governor's Bicycle Coordinating Council
- Governor's Committee for People With Disabilities
- Governor's Council on Financial Literacy
- Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health
- Governor's Council on Workforce Investment
- Governor's Judicial Selection Advisory Committee
- Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission
- Great Lakes Compact Commission
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Great Lakes Protection Fund
- Groundwater Coordinating Council
- Group Insurance Board
- Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Plan Authority
- Hearing and Speech Examining Board
- Higher Educational Aids Board
- Historic Preservation Review Board
- Homeland Security Council
- Independent Living Council of Wisconsin
- Information Technology Management Board
- Interstate Adult Offender Supervision Board
- Interstate Compact for Juveniles
- Interstate Compact on Placement of Children

- Invasive Species Council
- Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties
- Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems
- Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions
- Judicial Council
- Kickapoo Reserve Management Board
- Labor and Industry Review Commission
- Laboratory of Hygiene Board
- Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board
- Lake Superior Commercial Fishing Board
- Land and Water Conservation Board
- Law Enforcement Standards Board
- Lower Fox River Remediation Authority
- Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board
- Marriage and Family Therapy Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board
- Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board
- Medical Examining Board
- Medical Mediation Panel
- Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission
- Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission
- Midwestern Higher Education Compact
- Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council
- Mississippi River Parkway Commission
- Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission
- Monona Terrace Board of Directors
- Multifamily Dwelling Code Council
- National and Community Service Board
- Natural Resources Board
- Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council
- North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Nursing Home Administrator Examining Board
- Occupational Therapists Affiliated Credentialing Board
- Optometry Examining Board
- Parole Commission
- Perfusionists Examining Council
- Pharmacy Examining Board
- Physical Therapy Examining Board
- Podiatrists Affiliated Credentialing Board
- Prison Industries Board
- Psychology Examining Board
- Public Defender Board
- Public Records Board
- Public Service Commission
- Radiography Examining Board
- Real Estate Appraisers Board
- Real Estate Examining Board
- Respiratory Care Practitioners Examining Council
- Rural Health Development Council
- Savings Institutions Review Board
- Sign Language Interpreters Council
- Small Business Environmental Council
- Small Business Regulatory Review Board
- Snowmobile Recreational Council
- Social Development Commission Board
- Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District Board
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- State Capitol and Executive Residence Board
- State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse
- State Employees Suggestion Board
- State Fair Park Board
- State Historical Records Advisory Board
- State Interoperability Council
- State of Wisconsin Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council
- State of Wisconsin Building Commission
- State of Wisconsin Citizen Corps Council
- State of Wisconsin Claims Board
- State of Wisconsin Investment Board
- State Rehabilitation Council
- State Trails Council
- State Use Board
- Taliesin Preservation, Inc. Board of Trustees
- Tax Appeals Commission
- Teachers Retirement Board
- Telecommunications Relay Service Council
- Thermal Systems Insulators Council
- Transportation Projects Commission
- UW Hospitals and Clinics Authority and Board
- Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Board
- Veterinary Examining Board
- Volunteer Fire Fighter and EMT Service Award Board
- Waste Facilities Siting Board
- Wisconsin 529 College Savings Program Board
- Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Wisconsin Center District Board of Directors
- Wisconsin Coastal Management Council
- Wisconsin Compensation Rating Bureau Governing Board
- Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
- Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission
- Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority
- Wisconsin Historical Society Board of Curators
- Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority
- Wisconsin Housing Preservation Corp
- Wisconsin Humanities Council
- Wisconsin International Trade Council
- Wisconsin Judicial Commission
- Wisconsin Quality Home Care Authority
- Wisconsin Retirement Board
- Wisconsin Technical College System Board
- Wisconsin Waterways Commission
- Wisconsin Women's Council

## Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services Funding

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) administers the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program. The AFG Program consists of three different funding opportunities. Information including the program guidance documents, frequently asked questions, and the link to the applications can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>.

Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) – This grant opportunity offers fire departments and non-affiliated Emergency Medical Service providers the chance to submit three grant applications. All three applications are due at the same time. The match for this grant is between 5% and 20% depending on your jurisdiction size. The maximum amount an applicant can apply for is \$1 million. ***The 2013 application period is estimated to be open during June or July.***

- Operations and Safety – The Ops and Safety grant application can include requests for many things including: training, equipment (rescue tools, ladders, hose, etc.), personal protective equipment (turnout gear, air packs, etc.), modifications to facilities (sprinkler systems, smoke and fire alarm systems, vehicle exhaust systems, etc.), and wellness/fitness programs (physicals, immunizations, health screenings, etc.).
- Vehicles – Money for vehicles is limited to 25% of the total grant dollars available, competition for vehicles is extremely competitive. Departments can apply for a pumper, tanker/tender, brush truck, aerial, or quint; depending what size your jurisdiction is. Fire departments can also request all the NFPA required equipment as part of their application. The age of the vehicle, age of the total fleet, and your call volume are taken into consideration for the competitive request.
- Regional Communication Projects – Any eligible applicant, including fire departments or nonaffiliated EMS organizations, may act as a “host applicant” and apply for a communications project on behalf of itself and any number of organizations in neighboring jurisdictions. A regional project is one in which multiple organizations serving more than one local jurisdiction benefit directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds. Regional projects should be designed to facilitate interoperability and efficiency among the participating jurisdictions. Law enforcement can benefit from this grant. However, any equipment purchased with the grant must physically be distributed to all the departments in the identified region.

AFG – Fire Prevention and Safety Grant (FPS) – FPS offers grants to support activities designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate incidences of death and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards. The match for this grant is between 5% and 20% depending on your jurisdiction size. Eligible projects include the following: general education awareness (smoke alarms, sprinkler awareness, public education, juvenile fire setter projects, etc.), code enforcement and/or awareness, and fire and arson investigation. ***The 2013 estimated application period is expected to be open in September.***

AFG - Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) – SAFER grants provide financial assistance to help fire departments increase their cadre of frontline firefighters or to rehire firefighters that have been laid off. The goal is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities so they may respond to emergencies whenever they occur, assuring their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. SAFER offers grants to support activities in two categories: (1) Hiring of Firefighters and (2) Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters. It is important to check the program guidance for the required match for this opportunity as it has changed several times. ***The 2013 application period is expected to be open in July or August.***

For more information about these programs, please contact Dawn Vick with the Wisconsin Department of Administration at (608)266-7043 or [dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov).

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